

TAP OF 1962

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THE

Missionary Magazine

AND

CHRONICLE.

NEW YEAR'S SACRAMENTAL OFFERING

TO THE FUND FOR THE

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS OF DECEASED MISSIONARIES,

ANI

MISSIONARIES INCAPACITATED FOR LABOUR BY AGE AND INFIRMITY.

THE annual period has arrived at which the Directors have been accustomed to appeal to the Christian Churches by whom the Society is sustained, for the renewed exercise of their affectionate sympathy and generous support on behalf of the widows and fatherless children of their departed Missionaries, and for those aged Brethren who, having spent a long day of self-denying toil in the service of their Lord among the heathen, are waiting at eventide for admission to the promised rest.

The progressive liberality of their friends throughout the last ten years forbids apprehension that the present appeal will be received with reluctance, but, on the contrary, justifies the confident assurance that the aid so much required, and so gratefully appreciated by the interesting claimants for whom it is sought, will be laid upon the altar of God with a cheerful mind and a liberal hand.

The aggregate amount of the Widows' Fund for the last Missionary year, attained the sum of £3048 10s. 7d., exceeding that of the year preceding by £230. But, with the increase of resources, the number of claimants has also multiplied; and, in addition to Stallworthy, Barff, and Helmore, who have died within the last three years, leaving numerous and dependent families, we have now to remind our friends of the sudden departure, in June last, of the Rev. J. M. Lechler, whose widow and nine children present demands for sympathy and help.

The number of Widows now dependent on the Fund is TWENTY-EIGHT; that of Orphan or Fatherless Children amount to Fifty-six; and TWELVE AGED AND DISABLED MISSIONARIES receive support, making a total of Ninety-six individuals.

In the application of the Fund it is the constant object of the Directors to provide for the children of their deceased Brethren a useful and Christian course of education, and thus to qualify them for future self-support in some respectable department of life; or, should God graciously select any of their number for His special service, to prepare them for that sacred office in which their fathers laboured and died. During the last few months they have received applications from the sons of two devoted Missionaries who rest from their labours, to take the places which their fathers filled, while many others have surrendered themselves as living sacrifices to God, and are adorning their Christian profession in the respectable and useful stations which they occupy.

In renewing this annual application, the Directors are constrained to remind the Churches to whom they appeal, that they would deprecate, even in a single instance, the withdrawment, or the diminution of their ordinary contributions for their necessitous Brethren, who have the first claim on their Christian love; but they ask only, that, on the first Sabbath in the year 1862 (or as soon after as may be practicable), each communicant at the table of the Lord may have the opportunity of making some addition to his usual contribution, and that the amount contributed over and above the average of the ordinary Sacramental Collection, may be appropriated for the relief of the Widows and Fatherless Children of departed Missionaries, and of those venerable Servants of Christ whose years and energies have been spent in their Divine Master's service.

Signed on behalf of the Directors,

ARTHUR TIDMAN, EBENEZER PROUT, Secretaries.

Mission House, Dec. 2, 1861.

P.S.—It is respectfully requested that the amount specially contributed in reply to this appeal be transmitted separately and without delay to the Rev. Ebenezer Prout, Home Secretary.

It is hoped that, should it be found impracticable to make the Sacramental Offerings now solicited on the first Sabbath of next month, our Christian friends will kindly embrace the first Sabbath in February for the occasion.

MADAGASCAR.

AUSPICIOUS CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PROSPECTS OF THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS.

SINCE the publication of our last number, the reports respecting the death of the QUEEN of MADAGASCAR, and the accession of her Son to the throne, have been fully confirmed, and the new Sovereign has not lost an hour in proclaiming to the civilized world the course of just and enlightened policy which he intends to pursue. He has announced his earnest desire to maintain amicable relations and commercial intercourse with all nations; and these wise and just views were specially communicated to the Governor of Mauritius for transmission to the Government of England.

"On the 20th September," says the 'Mauritius Commercial Gazette,' "his Excellency the Governor informed the Council that he had received a communication under the sign manual from the new King of Madagascar, Radama II., announcing the decease of the late Queen, and his own accession to the throne. The King expressed the satisfaction he should feel in the establishment of a freer intercourse with this colony; and it had intimated that any congratulatory message would meet with a favourable reception, and that no obstacle would be thrown in the way of an approach to the capital."

In consequence of this royal message an influential deputation was immediately appointed to visit the capital of Madagascar, with a view to present the congratulations of the British Government to RADAMA II. on his accession to the throne, and to assure him of the friendly disposition and honourable intentions of the Queen of England and her people. The deputation also conveyed appropriate and costly presents to the new Sovereign, as a practical expression of respect and

friendship.

At the same time, our venerable Missionary, the Rev. John Le Brun, received a letter from the King, accompanied by one from his Prime Minister, RA HANIRAKA, who was hospitably entertained by Mr. Le Brun, in his own house, for six months, about thirty years ago, having previously spent several years in England, chiefly at Manchester, in the acquisition of various branches of useful knowledge. Both these letters were written in English, and contained expressions of friendship for Mr. Le Brun, and stated, also, the measures already adopted by RADAMA at the capital, for the establishment of schools, which might, as he said, tend to dispel the dark superstition which had so long prevailed in his country. Our venerable friend, feeling too much advanced in years and infirmities to undertake a visit to Madagascar, the Church at Port Louis

presented an earnest request to their Pastor, the Rev. Joseph John Le Brun, immediately to undertake this Mission. He most readily complied with their wishes, and, accompanied by two Native Malagasy Evangelists who had long resided in Mauritius, proceeded, at the close of September last, to Tamatave.

We can scarcely hope to receive any tidings of the arrival of the British Embassy, or of our friend, at ANTANANARIVO, and their reception by the King, for the next six weeks; but we trust that they may be favoured with the special mercy of God, and that their visit may be the commencement of free, enlightened, and Christian intercourse with the new Sovereign and his people.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY, FOR THE RENEWAL OF CHRISTIAN LABOUR IN MADAGASCAR.

For the happy change in Madagascar which, by the gracious providence of God, has thus been brought to pass, and the bright prospects for the future which it opens, to the Church of God at large, and the members of the Society in particular, have long been hoping, waiting, and praying; and we trust that, as the sorrows of the night are now exchanged for the joys of the morning, while they present their united praises to that Almighty King and Saviour whose kingdom ruleth over all, they will continue instant in prayer that this dispensation may be sanctified, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, to the emancipated Christians of Madagascar, and to the multitudes in other lands who have sympathised with them in their sufferings, and now rejoice in their deliverance. To the Church of God, the perils of prosperity have often proved greater than those of persecution, and we trust that our Malagasy Brethren, who have bravely withstood the fury of the storm, may not become enfeebled by the rays of royal patronage which they will naturally welcome.

The events under review left the Directors of the Society without hesitation as to their course of duty. Eight years since, when the prospect of deliverance for the persecuted Christians of Madagascar, and the admission of Christian teachers from Britain, appeared to be at hand, upwards of SEVEN THOUSAND POUNDS were raised by the members of the Society, to accomplish this object, and although the sanguine hopes then cherished were for the time disappointed, this fund has been held sacred, and is now happily available for the object designed. It appeared also to the Directors that their long-tried and beloved friend, the Rev. William Ellis, whose visit to Madagascar in 1856 was connected with incalculable advantages, would be the man to undertake another visit to the island, with a view precisely to ascertain facts, which in their bearing may have great influence on the future progress of the Gospel, and to prepare

the way for the introduction of a new body of Christian labourers. Our devoted Brother, notwithstanding various *real* difficulties which would have deterred many, readily accepted the invitation of the Directors, regarding it as the clear and imperative call of his Divine Master to this new and arduous course of duty.

Mr. Ellis embarked for Mauritius on board the "Pera," at Southampton, on the 20th ult.; and we feel assured that, by the fervent supplications of the Mission Church, he will be commended to the guidance and care of Him whose gracious protection has been around him, amidst perils by land and perils by sea, throughout his prolonged and honourable course. On his arrival at Mauritius, it will probably be too late in the season to proceed at once to Madagascar; but he will have opportunities of corresponding both with the King and the Native Christians, and will thus be able to assure them of the interest of his countrymen in their future prosperity, and especially of the unabated sympathy and affection of the British Churches.

In the confident hope that the report of Mr. Ellis will justify the measure, the Directors in the meantime have resolved to use all practicable means to send forth, in the early part of the ensuing spring, a band of Missionaries (not less than six in number), suitably qualified for the different departments of labour demanded by the new circumstances of the Church in Madagascar, and by the favourable facilities likely to be afforded for the extension of the Gospel among the multitudes who are yet the victims of impure habits and debasing superstitions. In addition to Brethren directly bearing the Missionary office, it is hoped that other devoted individuals may be found—one, at least, well instructed in surgery and medicine; a second, with qualifications for promoting general and Christian education, by training Native Schoolmasters; and a third, practically acquainted with the art of printing.

OBSTACLES TO BE ANTICIPATED TO THE PROGRESS OF PROTESTANT MISSIONS.

The papers of the French Colony of Bourbon, or Réunion, inform us that among the first visitors to Madagascar on the reopening of the country were M. Lambert and Père Jouan, shortly followed by two other priests. It is affirmed also, that M. Lambert holds a high place in the confidence and regard of the new Sovereign, and that, under the influence and instruction of Père Jouan, he has become a Catholic. We are well aware that about the year 1856 this French ecclesiastic succeeded in obtaining for awhile a residence at the capital. This he did by concealing his real profession and objects, and assuming to be a teacher of mathematics. It is probable that he was actually at Antananarivo at the very

time that our friend Mr. Ellis was there; but shortly afterwards, with M. Lambert and others, he was detected in a plot against the Queen's Government, and, together with every French resident, he was forthwith expelled the country. At that time the views of the prince were in no degree favourable to Popery, nor has he since given the slightest indication that his attachment to the principles and professors of Protestantism has been changed.

But we confidently anticipate the early appearance of a large body of Popish Missionaries in Madagascar, and that every effort will be employed to turn away both the king and his people from the right ways of the Lord. The Catholic authorities, not only in Bourbon, but in France, and throughout Europe, will doubtless make a vigorous effort to establish their system over the minds of a people just emerging from the darkness of Paganism; in proof of which, we give our readers the copy of a notice just posted on the doors of certain Catholic chapels in the city of Cork, in the following terms:—" Young Men wanted for Missionaries to Madagascar!"

Only let these efforts be restricted to moral means, unsustained by fraud, bribery, and violence, and we have no fear of the result. With the Word of God in their own tongue, the Christians of Madagascar are are already familiar; their efforts among their countrymen to extend it are vigorous and determined; and He who has graciously enabled them to withstand the fiery persecutions of Paganism is able to preserve them from the wiles and sophistries of Popery. In Tahiti, from which it expelled the English Protestant Missionaries, its handful of worthless converts is its shame; while the Protestant Churches, left to the oversight of Native Pastors only, have increased one fourth in number.

The writers of the French Colonial Press in Bourbon, boldly assert the right of France to the supreme political power in Madagascar, and would rejoice to make Radama a mere tributary to the Imperial Government; and in Paris the same pretensions are also put forth, and this course of policy strongly advocated. So lately as the 12th ultimo, an elaborate article appeared in the "Journal des Débats," from the pen of M. Jules Duval, maintaining the right of France to the sovereignty of Madagascar, and reflecting on the imperial Government for its supineness in not having already adopted means to enforce its claim. These pretensions might well awaken the most painful forebodings if they were likely to be enforced; but the Government of Britain will respect and maintain the independent sovereignty of the new King, and we have no apprehension that the Government of France will pursue the contrary course of injustice and dishonour.

INDIA.

CALCUTTA.

We have received from our friend the Rev. Joseph Mullens a brief review of the first year of his renewed services in India, exhibiting the affecting events with which it has pleased God successively to visit the idolatrous millions of Northern India, together with a statement of the progress of our Mission during the same period in the city of Calcutta. We cannot read without the deepest pain the statements of our friend, that, although the judgments of God have been abroad in the earth, the suffering population have refused to learn righteousness; and that, while the heavy strokes of His hand have been repeated, they have but rebelled yet more and more. But let these unproductive chastisements, and the discouragements of the faithful Missionary, to which Mr. M. refers, more deeply convince the servants of Christ of the necessity of dependence on His grace, and more earnest supplication for the outpouring of his Spirit; for in vain does the prophet address the dry bones of the valley, though with equal urgency and tenderness, unless the Spirit breathe upon the slain that they may live.

EXTRACTS OF LETTER FROM THE REV. JOSEPH MULLENS TO THE REV.

DR. TIDMAN.

"Bhowanipore, Calcutta, Sept. 22nd, 1861.

"My dear Friend,—Till the last mail I was closely tied down, endeavouring to complete the brief memoir of Mr. Lacroix, which I have been preparing since my arrival, and to which I was quite unable for the first three months to pay any attention. I am happy to say that it is now finished, and was sent to Messrs. Nisbett and Co. by last mail. It will be published like Mr. Knill's Life, and will make a book about eighty pages thicker than that memoir. I have endeavoured to give within its pages a picture of Missionary Life in Bengal, such as may aid the friends of our Society in Europe to obtain a clear view of the character and proceedings of our work in this country.

"What a singular year we have had in UPPER INDIA! Famine first—gaunt, terrible, destructive; from which, however, the liberality of the Indian Government, and of the English people at home, has saved many thousand lives. Next pestilence—cholera in its most destructive form has come, sweeping away hundreds of our English soldiers, officers, and residents in general, with thousands of natives. And now floods, that have filled the Ganges higher than it has been seen for thirty years, covered whole provinces with water, turning them into vast lakes, and sweeping away hundreds of cottages, and many hundreds of their people. All these things have followed war; and thus, in the Upper Provinces, have been poured in succession the 'four sore judgments' which visited Israel and Judah for their idolatries. I am afraid, however, little fruit has sprung from these heavy chastisements, in repentance for their false religion and their evil works. The spirit of grace and supplication is yet needed to enable the stricken ones to look unto Him whom they have pierced.

"In BENGAL we have had a very heavy rainy season, which will have lasted

altogether nearly five months. We, who have newly arrived, have found it comparatively cool, and have all borne our first year very well. A great tendency to dysentery has prevailed this season in the English community generally, but none of us have had more than mild attacks. All our Brethren are well, though Mr. Storrow is exceedingly weak. Mr. Payne continues to do very well, studying Bengalee most assiduously, and making fair progress. Since making the new arrangement, by which he gives only one English sermon every Sabbath, he seems to find his English work scarcely at all a burden. Mr. Lessel's arrival will make it lighter than it is. We are all anxious that he shall reside, not at Bhowanipore, but (like Mr. Lacroix) in the city of Calcutta, with a view to constant and convenient preaching in the bazaars. We propose to locate with him one or two of our Catechists or Native Missionaries.

"Our work has been carried on steadily, but it has in many respects been a humbling year. Our Institution Scholars have increased to 428; but instead of gaining converts, two baptized have openly become apostates, and two others who came to make a profession, went back. Instead of gaining an increase in the Native Church, we have lost members. Some have been excluded for bad conduct, and others have resigned, drawn away by a Puseyite Missionary, who troubled our south Churches twenty years ago. The advance of the Mission this year has been in female education, wherein the openings for usefulness have been excellent, and call loudly for gratitude. I enclose you, from my wife, a little story of a Brahmin convert who has recently joined us, which I think you will find interesting.

"Ever most affectionately yours, (Signed) "Joseph Mullens."

VISITS TO THE ZENANA.

In our Magazine for August last, we had the pleasure of inserting a very interesting communication from Mrs. Mullens, narrating her labours for the instruction of the higher classes of Hindoo females, and detailing the extent to which her visits to the Zenana, (the secluded abode of Hindoo ladies), had then been carried. With unusual gratification, we have received subsequent communications from our valued friend, in which she records many interesting incidents, some encouraging, and others adverse, connected with the progress of the work. We are persuaded that our readers, and especially our *female* friends, on the perusal of the following papers, will largely sympathise in these feelings; and should any be disposed to render their kind assistance to Mrs. Mullens in these labours of love, we shall be most happy to become the medium of their Christian liberality.

Visits to the Zenana are new efforts in Christian benevolence, and we trust that they may become very widely extended, not only in Calcutta, but in other parts of India, feeling assured that, by the blessing of God, they will accomplish most important benefits, not only among the women of India, but through their influence upon the entire population.

OBSTACLES TO THE WORK, AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM.

"June, 1861.—We met to-day with our first repulse in Zenana teaching; it came, not from the ladies, of course, nor even from the master of the house we were in, but from a jealous old uncle, a bigoted Hindoo, who is rich and powerful enough to make the family unwilling to offend him. We were seated in their verandah, as usual, surrounded by at least twenty eager learners, Mrs. Murray and my daughter busy with the needlework, and I with the reading lessons, when suddenly a harsh voice was heard below stairs, vehement and loud in the extreme, and so choked with anger, that the only words that I could distinguish were, 'What, again! Again! After all I have said, these Missionary ladies are here again!' The effect was electrical. Our frightened scholars slid away and hid themselves in all parts of the house. It seems the old gentleman had warned them before, but they fondly believed he had gone out to collect his rents; and so he had, but his carriage had driven back to the door for the express purpose, as it seemed, to detect them tasting of the tree of knowledge-a tree forbidden to them, alas! although their minds were hungering for mental aliments. The old schoolmistress alone stood her ground; apologised to the angry man; said it should not happen again; motioned to us to remain silent, (which I was not sorry to comply with), and finally persuaded him to go away for to-day. The women then returned one by one, and a council was held. The teaching in that house was over, that was clear, but the scholars were not going tamely to submit; they had begun to learn, and they meant to continue; that, they said, was their determination. I replied, 'Well, as your laws forbid your coming to me, it rests with you to find another schoolroom; I cannot help you in this matter.' Then, with a good deal of hesitation, one of them, named Koddome, suggested, 'I live a very little way from this, and come here through a private passage; I have an indulgent father, who might, perhaps, allow the teaching to go on in our house, and then most of these ladies could come there, through the same private passage; but then the room is very small and inconvenient; I fear you will not be able to bear the closeness and the heat.' We were considerably relieved; if we could only keep our beloved scholars we could bear anything, so I told her; and she added, joyfully, 'Oh, then I shall use all my influence with my father to let you come.' Our best pupils here are two young Brahmin sisters, who also come from an adjoining house; they are richly laden with jewels. I turned to them, and said, 'Why don't you invite us to your commodious dwelling yonder, and let us hold the school there?' 'Oh!' they replied, 'how gladly would we do so; but our husbands won't hear of it, they say that it is bad enough that we are learning to read, they won't have their own house turned into a school for Christianity.'

"On Monday we went again to see what our friend Koddome had been able to effect in the way of getting us a new place to teach in. We drove in Mrs. Murray's carriage to the old place, where we were met by the schoolmistress, who told us the ladies were all assembled in the house of the doctor, Koddome's father, but that it would be necessary for us to go by the front entrance, which was down a long green lane. Thither we repaired, but the lane was so narrow that the carriage could not by any possibility be turned into it. Our tropical rains have begun this week; we had not come prepared for this walk, and felt it would be most imprudent to venture. At the same time, the teacher was so earnest in pleading that we would not disappoint the scholars, so we got out and tried to walk through the water; but we

were obliged to give it up for to-day. The woman seemed in despair; she said the ladies would never forgive her for not bringing them to us. And oh! how sorry I was to go back, and yet it was a sorrow not unmixed with joy, for here, at last, were the daughters of the land crying out, 'Give us to know, to know,' a cry which one breath of God's Spirit can at any time change into the prayer, 'Give us to know Him, whom to know is life eternal;' for is it not written, 'Faith cometh by hearing?'

"This recalls a native lady in Bhowanipore, who is debarred from 'hearing' by a jealous and wicked husband. Hers is a sad case, it calls for our prayers and sympathy. She is the wife of one of the richest men in this neighbourhood, and is said to be so beautiful that her husband is afraid to let her be seen, even by the members of her own family; consequently she is more completely secluded than the most secluded of her countrywomen. This lovely young creature had, in some way or other, heard of our teaching in various houses, and conceived the most ardent desire to learn to read, and also to see an English lady, a pleasure which had never yet been hers. She appealed to her husband in vain; he was quite insensible to any additional advantage his already envied wife might gain by being taught to read and write; but she thought she might succeed better in the matter of fancy work, and so contrived the following little device; it showed ignorance, perhaps deceit, but it also showed her intense thirst for instruction; she would get knowledge in any way, at any price. She sent me sixteen shillings, with a request that I would let her have as handsome a pair of slippers as I could for the money. These slippers she meant to give her husband as a present from me! with a message that I wished much to call and see them, and that I had offered to teach her to make slippers like those I sent. Poor girl! I returned her money, explaining that her plan was neither a right nor a politic one, it was sure to defeat its own end; but I sent a large parcel of fancy work for her to show her husband, and said she might tell him that we would come and teach her to do it, if he liked. A few days since the parcel was returned, with a message from the baboo that he would buy the whole of it, as it would please his wife, but he must decline her receiving visits from a Christian ladv.

"Monday again! and though it was raining quite as much as before, we set off for our green lane, fortified this time with over-shoes and umbrellas. Koddome had not at all exaggerated the heat or closeness of her room. Indeed, it was so small that at first I said it really would not do; but the distressed looks of the women, and their prayers and entreaties, soon made me revoke that decision. They said, 'Our husbands are determined to put down this movement in Bhowanipore, and we are equally determined that it shall not be put down. If you will only not desert us now, but put up with a few inconveniences, we shall carry it through yet, and we are not without hope that soon we may get leave to return to the former place; when our husbands see we are determined, they will cease to raise objections.'

We got over the smallness of the apartment by dividing our scholars, and promising to go twice a-week instead of once.

"As if to make amends for the prejudices of his countrymen, a very rich native gentleman invited us to-day to visit his Zenana, with a view to make arrangements for the instruction of the ladies. This baboo lives not at Bhowanipore but in the heart of the city. My daughter met him one day, when it occurred to her to ask a gentleman in the company, who seemed to know the baboo, to mention to him that

we were always happy to teach native ladies. The gentleman did so; the baboo professed himself delighted, and we went to-day for the first time. I soon saw that he was too shy to introduce the subject of his ladies, so I inquired if they were ready to see us. He assented, and then conducted us through various intricate, dark passages, first up stairs, then down stairs, then up stairs again, till we arrived at their secluded apartments. The baboo's mother, his wife, and the two wives of his younger brother, were waiting to receive us. The man bowed politely and left us at the door, it being contrary to Hindoo etiquette that he should ever see the wives of a younger brother. The ladies were very lovely creatures, not at all dark': even the mother was still a handsome woman; but they were so shy, it was with difficulty we got them to speak; and then we found that one could read a little, the others not at all, but they said they were anxious to learn, and very glad indeed to see us. After making arrangements for their weekly instruction, we left, the baboo promising to procure the books and working materials I named as necessary. Before we took our final departure, he made us once more descend to his drawing-room to partake of sweetmeats, and insisted upon opening three or four bottles of scent for our especial benefit.

FIRST FRUITS OF THE HARVEST.

"On Friday the 28th June, while Mrs. Mullens was sitting alone, taking a hasty breakfast, a singular letter was put into her hands. It bore unmistakeable marks of being from a native, though it was anonymous. It ran thus:—'Madam—I have taken the liberty of introducing to you the bearer of this. She is a Brahmin widow, and belongs to a most respectable and wealthy family at B. She has visited all the chief shrines of Hindooism, seeking rest for her soul and finding none. For rest she now turns to Christianity. Madam, will you receive her into your asylum? Will you teach her what truth is? I will add one word for your encouragement. There are other widows besides this one; ay, and there are married women too, who are restless in, and dissatisfied with their own religion. They wish for something better.—Yours, a Truth-lover and Truth-seeker.'

"'Ask the bearer to come in,' said Mrs. Mullens, hardly knowing what to expect. A gentle-looking, modest woman entered the room. She seemed about four-andtwenty, and her every word and action shewed the Hindoo lady, though she looked hot, wearied, and very much excited. 'Was the letter I brought addressed to you?' she inquired. 'Yes.' 'Then I will wait till you have finished breakfast, for I must see you alone; I can easily wait.' The ayah showed her into the bed-room, where Mrs. Mullens joined her immediately. To try her, she said, 'You must go away to-day, and come again to-morrow. I have an unavoidable engagement, I am sorry, but I have not even five minutes to speak to you now.' 'Then I will wait. wait as long as you like; I have been waiting for this all my life. It would be hard to ask me to go away, just when I have found what I sought.' Mrs. Mullens left her. Hopes, doubts, fears, in eager tumult rose in her heart, and but one prayer came to her lips again and again, and yet again, 'Holy Spirit, is not thy promise pledged? Oh, breathe upon this soul, then shall it live, and bud, and blossom, and bear fruit.' Her engagement was to hear a Native Catechist's trial sermon to the heathen servants of an English lady. The man's text was, 'Yet the dogs shall eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table.' And as she heard, she thought of the waiting one at home, and it seemed to her that the answer

to her prayer had already come, and that Jesus was saying to that one, 'O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt.' Mrs. Mullens was soon back. It took three hours to hear the Brahminee's strange, sad story, with all its thrilling interest. Hers had been eminently a life of seeking. Had she found at last the hidden treasure? Left a widow at fourteen years of age, her penances and austerities had commenced; though otherwise she was kindly treated. But, ever since she had thought at all, she had been dissatisfied with Hindooism, and when the death of her husband left her free, and comparatively wealthy, she had begun to visit the various holy places celebrated in Hindoo story, with a view to find out whether they could give her that soul rest which was denied to her at home. Her account of this search after spiritual peace was often most touching. Once, when she was a little girl, she said her elder sister was dangerously ill, and her parents took her to a distant shrine, to join her prayers with theirs for the recovery of their The idol was propitious, the sister got well, and Boshonto believed in that idol. In after years, when God sent this longing for the truth into her heart, she bethought herself of the being who had once, as she considered, heard her prayer, and she again repaired to his shrine. They told her his most acceptable worshippers were those who approached him fasting. For two whole days she fasted, and her prayer was, 'Teach me thy way, O God.' On the third day she fainted, with that prayer for light and guidance still on her lips. 'Now,' she asked, 'may not the unknown God to whom I then prayed have heard my prayer, and brought me here in answer to it?' The Missionary's wife was silent: how could she tell? Though this she knew, that 'God looketh on the heart.' Not wishing to trust her own judgment merely, Mrs. Mullens asked two of the Native Preachers, who had been themselves Brahmins, to be present at this conversation. They saw nothing in her story either improbable or unworthy of belief; and, by a strange coincidence, it was found that Boshonto was distantly related to one of them. He knew her family, and could vouch for its respectability and its wealth. Boshonto was then asked about the writer of that strange letter. She was afraid it would bring him into trouble with his own people; therefore, it was with considerable reluctance she gave his name, and that only when she was assured it was absolutely necessary. proved to be a Brahmin well known to the Mission family. They were aware that he knew the truth, but not that he had felt its power, or that he had any love for it. Surprised, therefore, were they to hear that it was from this man's wife that Boshonto had first learned of Christianity. Her husband had taught her, and when her widowed friend told her of her doubts respecting Hindooism, and her longings for a religion that would satisfy the wants of her soul, she said, 'Boshonto, Christianity is the religion for you; go and be a Christian. I only wish we could be Christians too; but, alas! we have too many ties of family and caste. You are free, do you go.' And then the husband gave her that letter of introduction.

"Such was Boshonto's account of herself. The next step was to try and discover whether it was all true. One of the Native Preachers kindly undertook this, and rode many miles for the purpose. The result was perfectly satisfactory.

"At that time her state of mind was that of a humble learner. It was not that she knew much of Christianity; but it was as if what her heathen friend had told her, had also been revealed to her by a far higher power, that Jesus was the only Saviour of her sin-sick soul; and she sought after the Lord, if haply she might feel after Him and find Him.

"Boshonto has now been nearly three months in the Mission family at Bhowanipore, and every day increases their love and affection for her. Naturally very clever and intelligent, she has learned to read her Bible in an incredibly short time. It is rarely out of her hands; and each morning one may find her taking her place amid the girls of the Native Christian boarding school to get the benefit of their daily Bible lesson. Every now and then she looks up with extreme earnestness depicted on her bright face, and asks, 'Oh, do you think that this blind one will ever see? Shall I ever understand it all?' She may know it not, but the Spirit has already taught her to behold wondrous things out of His law; for she said on one occasion, 'I think I see the difference between the Hindoo Shastres and the Book of God. Is it not this? The former is filled with outward ceremonies, which cannot make the heart better, while the latter has to do chiefly with the heart; how it can be purified and made fit to dwell with God.' On being asked what made her first think that idols were not true gods, she replied, 'Because I saw the glorious sun and moon, and stars; not only so, but I saw that all these were governed by certain laws; the planets went round the sun, and the tides were influenced by the moon. Then I knew that there must be one Being in the universe greater than I had yet heard of.'

"But still this was not the feeling that brought her to the feet of Christ. To Him she came on account of her need, her want; and Christians will understand her, though she often says, 'I wish I could express myself better; but I do not know what else to say than that I have been needing the true religion all my life, and now I have found it.'

- ""Behold the expected time draw near,
 The shades disperse, the dawn appear;
 Behold the wilderness assume
 The beauteous tints of Eden's bloom.
- "'The untaught heathen waits to know The joy the Gospel will bestow; The exiled captive to receive, The freedom Jesus has to give.'"

CHINA.

CHEFOO (OR YENTAI).

WE inserted in a former number (July) an interesting letter from the Rev. Griffith John, who, together with the Rev. Joseph Edkins, had visited Chefoo, a city in the province of Shan-tung, and made an extensive tour in the surrounding country. These devoted brethren have since opened new Mission Stations: Mr. John at Hankow, and Mr. Edkins in the city of Tien-tsin. They have been succeeded at Chefoo by the Rev. Hugh Cowie, and his letters fully confirm the encouraging accounts previously received, both as to the character of the people and the facilities for Missionary labour. Whether the province will be permanently occupied as a station of our Society is yet undetermined; but our readers cannot fail to be much gratified with the interesting narrative of Mr. Cowie in reference

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to the first Chinaman he has been permitted to baptize, and the zeal of the new convert for the diffusion of the knowledge of Christ among his ignorant and idolatrous countrymen.

"Chefoo, 27th August, 1861.

"REV. DR. TIDMAN.

"DEAR SIR,-You will be glad to hear that since I last wrote you I have had some encouragement in my Missionary work. On Sunday, the 14th of July last. I, for the first time, administered the ordinance of baptism to a convert from heathenism. The case is an interesting one, and such as it would rejoice the heart of the Missionary to see of more frequent occurrence. The man, whose name is Wong, is a native of Whang-'hien, a city about sixty miles from Yentai by the direct road, and twenty miles from Teng-chow along the coast. He is thirty-five years of age, of independent means, and not engaged in business of any kind. About the beginning of last month he called on me and requested me to baptize him. I was somewhat perplexed how to act, owing to the suddenness of the application, and all the more that I had no previous knowledge of him. However, after frequent interviews with him, in which I questioned him minutely as to his knowledge and personal experience, I had every reason to be satisfied. His knowledge of the Scriptures, and his understanding of Gospel truth I found more full and precise than is often met with in similar circumstances. Besides this, he is, what is far better, emphatically a devout man. Of his spiritual apprehension of the truth, and of its having become to him a saving power and a source of new life, I could not entertain a doubt. Naturally he seems to be a humble-minded, guileless man, but by no means wanting either in intelligence or in force of character. Of four Missionaries who have seen him, and some of whom suspected that I had received him rather hastily, all now heartily entertain the same opinion as I do. May God grant him grace to go on as he has begun.

"I learnt from him that he had heard Mr. Edkins preach here at Yentai, and had received a copy of the Scriptures: that, on his return home, he studied the New Testament for months: and that, as the result of his hearing and reading, he became fully convinced of the truth of the Gospel. He did not, however, rest here, as the majority of our converts are disposed to do, but forthwith set about communicating the glad tidings to his friends and neighbours, and that, too, without having any intercourse with foreign Missionaries in the meantime, or being prompted to it by any other than God's good Spirit in his heart. The result of this effort was that many became interested inquirers, and some, I trust, true believers. He stated, too, that after receiving baptism it was his intention to return home and give himself, more or less, to the work of preaching the Gospel. I was pleased, also, to find that he did not leave it to me to propose a visit to his place; but he himself asked me to come and see what he was doing, and to help him in the work. Owing to illness and other causes, I was unable to go as soon as I wished. After a fortnight's delay, however, I was able to set out. I travelled in a mule chair, accompanied by my teacher, and early on the morning of the third day arrived at Whang-'hien. The road, or path rather, lay for most of the way through a very hilly and picturesque country. After fifty miles of this hill road, I found myself on the nearest point of the great plain which extends thence to Tien-tsin. The rich exuberance of the various crops at this part was such as I have seen nowhere else. Ten miles onward

from the hills into the plain and we arrive at Whang'hien. The city is not very large, but seemingly very populous, and in a high degree of prosperity and material comfort. A more favourable specimen of a small Chinese city I have not seen. Shortly after my arrival I waited on the mandarin of the place, and presented him with a copy of the Scriptures, which he placed in what seemed to be rather a select library in his public reception room, promising, at the same time, that he would read it. He was very courteous and respectful, and after an hour's talk, and sipping of tea, I took my leave. Among the townspeople I distributed about 300 volumes of books, mainly the New Testament, which were begged for and received with extraordinary avidity. Many thousands might be disposed of in a very short time were it desirable; but I consider a more select distribution as better calculated to attract attention and do good.

"My friend Wong I found living at a village about four miles from the city. He seemed delighted to receive me at his home. Of those who had been brought under Christian influence by him, there were about forty sufficiently near to meet me; but he told me of others who lived at a distance scattered about the country. Of most of those I saw, I can only say that a favourable impression had been made, and a desire for further instruction excited. At the first hearing of the word they received it with joy, but its issue in their hearts remains to be seen. Their knowledge is as yet very deficient; but their goodwill is very hearty, and, I believe, sincere. Twelve of these men made a formal profession of faith, and wished to be baptized; but I considered it prudent to delay for a time. With four of them, however, I was much pleased, and, if all goes well, I shall probably baptize them at my next visit about three weeks hence. My assistant is at the place now, and I trust his instructions will be blest.

"You will, perhaps, say that there is nothing definitely accomplished in all this. Still there are two interesting features in the case; first, Wong's preaching and teaching of his own accord without remuneration, or even prior consultation with a foreign Missionary; and second, the seeming readiness to hear, and willingness, I might say, eagerness in many cases, to know better, and to accept the truth. Does not the Spirit of God seem preparing the hearts of the people to believe in the Saviour.

"I have one source of anxiety in the matter; namely, my inability to do for them as much, or to do it as well as I could wish, owing to my knowledge of the language being so much less free and efficient than that of an older Missionary. I have often wished for the assistance of Mr. Edkins or Mr. Muirhead; but as the work has been brought to my hand, and that, too, in a somewhat remarkable manner, I must just do what I can, and leave the rest to God, who can as easily save by few as by many. I stayed with these people four days, meeting them daily for instruction and social worship.

"Just before setting out on my return, Wong and another man told me of two men, also named Wong, (no relatives of the other), who, they said, believed the Gospel as Wong himself did, and made an equally public profession. These men, who are both wealthy, were then, they said, in prison, on the charge of being in foreign interest; but they maintained that the real cause of imprisonment was hatred of Christianity on the part of the magistrate (the same whom I visited a few days before), together with the hope of extorting ransom-money for their liberation; for he had offered to liberate them for a considerable sum, which they refused to give.

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I could not on the moment decide on any course of action; but I have since then thought the matter over and consulted our excellent consul, Mr. Morrison, about it. Mr. M. offered, with the utmost readiness, to interfere in the matter if he only knew for certain that the case really stood as these men represented it. That their view of it is correct, I am disposed to believe, but I am not at present prepared to say positively that it is so. I am now investigating the matter, and will let you know the result.

"On my return, I went by Teng Chow (twenty miles from Whang-'hien). There I stayed one night with some American Brethren, and on the following day set out for Yentai.

"With Christian regards,

"I remain, dear Sir,

"REV. A. TIDMAN, D.D."

"Very sincerely yours, (Signed) "HUGH COWIE.

SOUTH AFRICA.

KURUMAN.

THROUGH the kindness of a benefactor to our Society, we are favoured with the following interesting letters from our venerable friends Mr. and Mrs. Moffat, who, from youth to old age, have been enabled by their Divine Saviour to labour in His service at Kuruman, so long the advanced post of Christian Missions in the interior of South Africa.

We are truly thankful that our devoted Brother and his excellent wife are still young and vigorous in their glowing attachment to the sacred cause in which their lives have been spent, and that they are enabled still to labour for the good of the people whom they have been honoured to rescue from the degradation and misery of heathenism, and to train in the knowledge and service of Christ.

Our young female friends at home who are accustomed to occupy their time and industry in the preparation of useful articles for our several Missions, will see from the subjoined letters that their labour of love is highly valued by our Missionaries, and really beneficial to the people among whom they labour. They will also learn from the letters of Mr. and Mrs. M. the importance of adapting the form of their benevolence to the peculiar circumstances of the people and the country for which it is intended, inasmuch as articles of useful and ornamental clothing in *India*, would be utterly unsuitable to *South Africa* or the *Islands of the Pacific*.

Should any working party have it in their hearts to do good to a particular Mission, and require any suggestions as to the most useful way of carrying out their intention, their inquiries, addressed to the Mission House, would receive a ready answer.

"MY DEAR MRS. W., "Kuruman (South Africa), 26th August, 1861.

"It affords me most sincere pleasure to be able to acknowledge the receipt of the valuable box of articles, forwarded so long since as October of last year, furnished by the members of your Missionary Working Society, and others. The note, apprising us of your liberal and valued contributions to the object of our labours among the Bechuanas, was received about six months ago, but till lately we could hear nothing whatever of the case, though promptly shipped for Algoa Bay-where we also saw the vessel had arrived. Though it has been rather long on the road, it has come perfectly safe, not one article injured. Indeed, it appeared, when opened up, as if only packed on the day previous. I assure you, my dear Mrs. W., you and your friends who have remembered us in the way you have done, have the heartfelt thanks of Mrs. M. and myself. Such tokens of Christian friendship, and unexpected Christian sympathy, produce feelings in the heart, in our distant and isolated position, which I can hardly describe. They say emphatically, 'We love the Master you serve; your work is our work, though in different spheres, and we are endeavouring to support your hands, for the help of the Lord against the mighty.' Of this you have given a most tangible proof, in the various articles so carefully selected, and so admirably adapted for the purposes you intended them. The tools-I see of a first-rate description-are the most useful that could have been sent, and I shall not forget to supply John with whatever he may require. In a country like this, the Missionary finds it necessary to turn his hand to the anvil, the carpenter's bench, and turn tinker and cobbler, everything that comes in his way; and happy he who has a few suitable tools. The days is gone by when I have been obliged to turn to and make tools before I could work. I remember well, when visiting some shops in Sheffield, I stared with amazement to see tools turned off like magic, which cost me hours of hard labour. The addition sent to those I possess will furnish me for my life. From what I hear from Mrs. Moffat, the clothing department could not have been better chosen if you had been on the spot. Already the copybooks are in requisition, to the no small satisfaction of my two youngest daughters, Bessie and Jaue, who have the entire charge of the schools, and to which they devote all the energy of body and mind. Indeed, the box did not contain a single article which we could have wished to be left; even the very convenient sized pocket-knife was no sooner in my hand, than it was in my pocket. I cannot thus write in reference to some cases which, at former times, have reached us from the best-intentioned friends. If you have not had good advisers, you have formed a very correct judgment as to the kind of things required at such a Station as this. Your contributions encourage us in our labours, while they increase the means of our usefulness in the work in which we have been so long engaged, and in which, though getting old, we are not weary. No, no! for, though sometimes faint, we still pursue, with the full assurance that we are doing the will of Him who first called us to Himself, and then sent us with the message of mercy and love to the deeply degraded and downtrodden children of Africa.

"This portion of Southern Africa is poor, and, from frequent droughts, a hungry one. Want of resources, and scarcity of means to obtain remuneration for labour, make it hard work with many to keep soul and body together. This is the more felt from the long sickness in cattle, an epidemic which has carried off thousands, so that many who possessed only a few, have none left. But the work of God is prospering, though it bears no comparison with the strides the Gospel is making in the islands of the Pacific. Lately we have had the satisfaction of seeing pleasing fruits of the Divine influence in those who have given themselves to the Lord.

Only on the first Sabbath of this month nine were added to the Church here, all young people, five females and four youths. We have also an increasing number of candidates, chiefly young. Our public services are well attended, and our schools, already alluded to, give great satisfaction. Numbers have been added to our churches and at the neighbouring Stations, but there are thousands around us, who have heard the Gospel, who are still in unbelief. We, however, labour in hope, praying and expecting a heavenly shower to cause the wilderness to rejoice.

"Present our grateful acknowledgments to all who have so kindly interested

themselves in our welfare.

"Yours very sincerely and affectionately,

(Signed) "ROBERT MOFFAT."

"Kuruman, August 28th, 1861.

"MY DEAR MRS. W .- My husband having spared time to write to you, and express our thanks to you and your associates in your work of Christian benevolence, it is hardly necessary for me to add much; but I think I may give you a little light on the subject of providing clothing for children in this country, that, should you meet with others who would like to help us in the same way, you may be able to give them counsel. Your things were all so substantially good, and many of them dark coloured, that we consider them very suitable for the object. Soap has always been a scarce article, and now that an epidemic among cattle has carried off thousands of oxen, fat is very scarce all over the country, and as a consequence soap is very dear; therefore we are always well pleased to see dark coloured clothing. For two or three years past, we have had some difficulty in mustering sufficient for school rewards, and in a semi-barbarous community such as ours, it is important to do so, as by it they are stimulated to lay aside their heathen costume, and provide for themselves neat, comfortable clothing, made (after our mode) of prepared skins, and we give no cotton clothing except to those who have managed to get these for themselves. You would hardly conceive of the respectable appearance they make in these skin dresses, far more so than in dirty cotton clothing. Thus, what they get, enables them to come to chapel in nice clean clothes, while if they had nothing else for work days, they would have a dirty, disgusting appearance on Sabbaths. The really poor who have no resources whatever, we assist with articles for barter, such as beads, &c., wherewith to purchase skins and get them made, and this is their school reward, with a handkerchief for the head or other trifles. By this means we adhere strictly to the rule, to give clothing to none, but to those who make efforts to clothe themselves. It is rather remarkable that with very few exceptions, in all the boxes of clothing we have ever got, while there were nice supplies for girls, the poor lads from about eight to fifteen years old were quite forgotten. This lack we have generally supplied by purchasing the material, and getting shirts, and jackets, or blouses, made by some of our young people, or in the sewing school, but should have no objection to some ready made, as for the girls. For trousers we always advise them to keep to the skins, as they wear so much better. You see here we have to civilise as well as evangelise, and in the matter of clothing this devolves on us females, and are therefore always very thankful for such aid as yours. My strength is gone, and I cannot do for them what I was wont to do; indeed, it is no longer needful, as so many of them can now help themselves and others, but for the schools and very aged poor people we are very thankful for such supplies. Yours are

exceedingly satisfactory. I intend giving the bags ready furnished with sewing materials to some of our young married females, who know well how to use them, and will prize them much.

"You will kindly excuse my hasty note; have had several family letters to write, and am fatigued, and the post must close to-night. With kind Christian regards to yourself, Miss T——, and other companions in your labour of love.

"Believe me, my dear Mrs. W.,
"Yours affectionately,

(Signed) "MARY MOFFAT."

DECEASE OF MRS. EDKINS.

It is with deep regret we have to announce the death, from an attack of dysentery, of Mrs. Edkins, wife of the Rev. Joseph Edkins, our devoted Missionary, now stationed at Tien-tsin, in the north of China. This solemn event, of which we have received no particulars, occurred on the 24th of August last, on board the "Sea Witch" off the Peiho river.

DEPARTURE OF MISSIONARIES.

FOR CHINA.

THE Rev. Jonathan Lees and Mrs. Lees, appointed, pro. tem., to Canton, and Dr. Carmichael, Medical Missionary, appointed to superintend the hospital in that city, accompanied by Mrs. Hall, wife of the Rev. Mr. Hall, Missionary at Tien-tsin, embarked at Gravesend in the "Star Queen," bound for Hong Kong, October 25th.

FOR BERBICE.

The Rev. Thomas Rain and Mrs. Rain, appointed to Brunswick Station, Berbice, embarked at Blackwall, in the "Cleo," bound for George Town, Demerara, October, 29th.

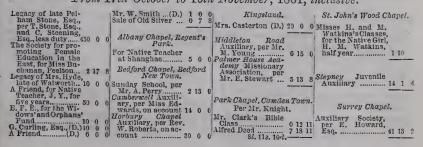
FOR MAURITIUS.

The Rev. W. Ellis, for Mauritius, on his way to Madagascar, embarked at Southampton in the "Pera," November 20th.

(Acknowledgments unavoidably postponed.)

MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS,

From 17th October to 16th November, 1861, inclusive.



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Westminster Chapel.	Lowther Street.	Collected by Miss Pick.	Beeralston.
On account 1 13 6	Master and Miss	Mr. Sparkes 0 10 0 Sums under 108 0 14 0	Rev. W. Hill.
Miss Stevens's Mis-	Mason's Mission- ary Box 0 15 10	Collected by Miss H.	
sionary Box 0 7 3		Ward 2 16 1	Mrs. Whillans
	Penrith.	Mr. Owen 0 10 0	Miss M.J. Newcombe 0 15 1
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Bedford.	Collections 8 10 0 Sabbath School 6 0 0 Missionary Basket 3 0 0 Temple Sowerby Collection 2 17 (Collected by Miss Joule.	Mr. J. Matters 0 6 0 Miss M. J. Bragg 0 6 0
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For the Native Girl, Martha Alliett 3 0 0	Subscriptions & Donations.	Mr. Bryer 1 0 0	
	Rev. W. Brewis 1 1 0 Mr. Bell 1 0 0	Mr. Bryer	Sunday School Classes. Mr. G. Borley 1 8 0
		Sums under 108 1 7 0	Mr S Rolin 1 1 4
BERKSHIRE.	Rev. G. C. Hodgson,	Kirkland 2 7 6 Collected by Miss	Mr. L. Knight 0 10 8 Mr. J. Sampson 0 9 0 Miss E. Coram 0 5 3
Windsor and Eton Auxiliary.	Miss Holmes 1 0 0	Hill 1 15 6	Mr. J. Lawry 0 5 0
On account 45 0 0	Miss Holmes	Victoria Street Sun- day Schools 20 16 4	Mr. J. Lawry 0 5 0 Miss A. Ceram 0 4 8 Mr. Thos. Foot 0 4 3
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CAMBRIDGESHIRE.	hall 2 0 0 Mrs. J. P. Spedding 1 1 0 Admiral Wauchope,	John Leslie's Sub- cription 0 5 0	Miss E. Peak's Class 0 2 2 Public Meeting 5 13 8
Fordham.	Dacre Lodge 1 0 0	day School	18l. 7s. 1d.——
Miss Bland 0 2 6 Mrs. Seaber 0 2 6	Missionary Boxes.	lected for Repairs	Chulmleigh.
Mrs. Townsend 0 1 0	Misses Brewis 2 6 6 Mrs. Bardgett 1 1 6	of Ship	Rev. J. Fernie.
Sunday School Chil-	Miss Beattie 0 4 6	dows'and Orphaus'	Collection
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Ann Boon 6 0 6 Mrs. W. Cook 0 0 6 Frances Green 0 0 6	Master John and Miss Annie Robin-	Interest	tions, per Mr. G. Cole 5 0 0
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Annie Lansley 0 5 0 Daniel Lansley 0 3 6	Juvenile Society for	Miss Beswick 1 15 0 Miss E. Webster 0 3 6 Miss Foottit 1 11 10	
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	Victoria Street Chapel. Rev. II. Tarrant.	Proceeds of Ludics' Working Society. 22 0 0 731, 108, 2d.	Exs. 278.; 741. 08. 911.
	Miss Fernie, Secretary.	731. 108. 2d.	Teignmouth.
CUMBERLAND.	Collected by Miss Denston.	Public Meeting 12 / 11	Rev. J. H. Bowhay. On account 22 0 0
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Meeting.	Sums under 108 2 2 6	Sunday School 0 10 0	Gloucester.
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